

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendment to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 11, no other claims having been presented.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the Lee or Shiria et al references. The Examiner states that both references disclose a linear rolling bearing having a guide rail and a guide carriage that partially surrounds the guide rail and is supported by rolling elements for sliding on two long sides of the guide rail, the rolling elements being arranged on each of the two long sides of the guide rail in at least two parallel, endlessly circulating rows of rolling elements of a row wherein a common space for both of said two rows is inserted between every two adjacent rolling elements.

Claims 1, 2 and 9 were rejected under USC 103 as being obvious over Lee or Shiria taken in view of Koschmieder. The primary references are relied upon as above and Koschmieder is cited as teaching linear rolling bearings having a guide rail and a guide carriage, rolling elements and spacers inserted between every two rolling elements wherein on each long side of the guide rail, a common spacer is inserted. The Examiner

deems that it would be obvious to replace the rolling element spacing device of the primary references with the spacing arrangement of Koschmieder.

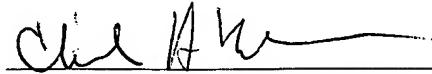
Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection since the prior art does not anticipate or render obvious the amended claims. The Examiner is requested to clarify the status of claims 3 to 8 which were not rejected by the Examiner but were not indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter. It is assumed that the Examiner is indicating these claims are allowable. Both of the primary references deal with chains but not with spacers and a chain is quite different from spacers. Using a chain, the chain is subject to tensile forces, which could elongate the chain. Using spacers, only a pressing force can act on the spacers, but not the tensile force. Spacers are independent from one another, a chain is a single element.

Present claim 1 distinguishes over Koschmieder in the fact that the invention concerns a rolling bearing system, comprising a guide carriage and a guide rail. Koschmieder concerns just a linear bearing, which can be provided for many applications, but not for rolling bearing systems. Present claim 1 distinguishes over the prior art documents in that the concave shape walls of the spacers each compasses a part of the ball surface, which part is less than the half of the peripheral surface of the ball. This means, the balls are not held within the spacer, but only separated by the spacer. All the prior art documents disclose chains or spacers holding the balls within the spacers or chains. The advantage of the inventive spacer could be the easy way of mounting into the bearing.

Present claim 2 distinguishes over Koschmieder in the fact that the invention concerns a rolling bearing system, comprising a guide carriage and a guide rail. Koschmieder concerns just a linear bearing, which can be provided for many applications, but not for rolling bearing systems. Present claim 1 further distinguishes over Koschmieder in that the retaining bar is arranged between the two rows of balls (Fig. 1). Koschmieder provides grooves or notches at the carriage and noses at the spacers, which noses engage the notches. Therefore, withdrawal of these grounds of rejection are requested since the prior art does not anticipate or render obvious Applicants' invention.

In view of the amendment to the claims and the above remarks, it is believed that the claims clearly point out Applicants' patentable contribution and favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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